

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00229 240626Z
ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0229

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ILO ELAB XB PP
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ILO ACTIVITIES IN ASIA: PNG/
74/010

REF: A) STATE 3255, B) STATE 18560, C) PORT MORESBY 0220

1. PNG/74/010-WORKERS' EDUCATION

A. OBJECTIVES: PROJECT AIMED AT ESTABLISHING WORKERS'S
EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY'S TRADE UNIONS. THE UNIONS COVER
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ROUGHLY 70,000 OUT OF A WAGE EMPLOYED
WORK FORCE OF 200,000. THE UNIONS COULD EVENTUALLY PLAY A
SOCIAL ROLE AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE WORKERS OF THEIR ORIGINAL
VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT. SEVERAL POLITICAL TOP LEADERS (KIKI,
SOMARE, REA) HAVE BEEN OR ARE STILL INVOLVED IN WORKERS'
ORGANIZATIONS.

B. TRIPARTISM: THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATED
IN THE PREPARATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROJECT. THE
EMPLOYERS WERE NOT INVOLVED.

C. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

GOVERNMENT:

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1. REASONABLE GOOD SUPPORT. GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART
WAS PROVIDED PROMPTLY. THE PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE
UNIONS PROVIDED A COUNTERPART, TOO. THE PNG TRADE UNION
CONGRESS PROVIDED JBCOUNTERPART WITH CONSIDERABLE DELAY.

2/3. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIONS WERE REASONABLE
COOPERATIVE DURING THE PRESENCE OF THE EXPERT, BUT IN BOTH

EXTREMELY POOR ORGANIZATION FRUSTRATED THE PROJECT.

ILO:

1/2/3. ILO PROVIDED AN ADVISER OF ACCEPTABLE COMPETENCE
AND OTHERS INPUTS, MAINLY FELLOWSHIPS, CAME OFF ON TIME.

D. SUCCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION

1/2. THE PROJECT FAILED TO A GREAT EXTENT TO REALIZE
ITS OBJECTIVES. DURING THE PRESENCE OF THE ILO ADVISER
SEVERAL WORKERS' EDUCATION ACTIVITIES WERE ORGANIZED,
OCCASIONALLY AROUSING GREAT INTEREST. THE ADVISER ALSO GAVE
VALUABLE GUIDANCE TO THE UNIONS IN WAGE DISPUTES, ETC. BUT
LITTLE WAS LEFT BEHIND.

THE PNG TRADE UNION CONGRESS HAS SHOWN NO INTEREST IN
A REGULAR WORKERS' EDUCATION PROGRAM. THE COUNTERPART AND
THE ILO EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN PUT TO USE IN GENERAL WORK. THE
PORT MORESBY COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS FOR SOME TIME ALSO GAVE
UP WORKERS' EDUCATION, BUT THEIR COUNTERPART HAS RECENTLY
MADE A NEW START WITH A W.E. PROGRAM. THE COUNCIL IS, HOW-
EVER, SERIOUSLY HANDICAPPED BY POOR ACCOMMODATION. IN BOTH
CASES THE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN WILLING TO INCUR GREAT
COSTS FOR WORKERS' EDUCATION.

3. SUMMARY: DESPITE GOOD WILL WITH THE GOVERNMENT
AND WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS, THE LATTER HAVE NOT BEEN DETER-
MINED ENOUGH IN THEIR FOLLOW-UP AND THE PROJECT HAS NOT
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ACHIEVED MUCH.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: UNLESS THE FRAIL PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS
IN THIS COUNTRY ARE TO CONTINUE ONLY TO FOCUS ON PRESENTING
WAGE CLAIMS, CONSIDERABLE WORKER EDUCATION IS NECESSARY. THE
UNIONS HAVE BUT SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS AT MOST; HAVE NO DUES
CHECK-OFF SYSTEM; NORMALLY DO NOT HAVE A PAID STAFF, NOR ONE
WHICH RETAINS OFFICE FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME; AND HAVE A FLUC-
TUATING MEMBERSHIP. THERE IS AN ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL NEED
FOR WORKER EDUCATION IN PNG, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE PNG
TRADE UNION CONGRESS HAS SHOWN NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN
FINANCING WORKERS' EDUCATION PROGRAMS. THE PNGTU CONGRESS
IS FACED WITH THE SAME PROBLEMS AS ITS CONSTITUENT MEMBERS.
THE PNG BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS, THROUGH MONEY
FUNNELLED FROM THE PNG GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY
MOTIVATING FORCE IN WORKERS' EDUCATION. TRANSFORMATION
OF THIS DIFFICULT SCENE CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH
WORKER EDUCATION.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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